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14. ABSTRACT We have synthesized and studied nano-structured porous mixed metal oxide thin films with high surface area and catalytic activity. By temporally controlling the deposition of two different metals in low-pressure oxygen we synthesized mixed metal oxide catalytic films with spatially controlled compositions for physical characterization and surface chemical studies. Importantly, mixed metal oxides have desirable catalytic properties; they have been shown to enhance activity and selectivity, as well as reduce sintering.					
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Report Title

Final Report Regarding Surface Chemistry of Nano-Structured Mixed Metal Oxide Films

ABSTRACT

We have synthesized and studied nano-structured porous mixed metal oxide thin films with high surface area and catalytic activity. By temporally controlling the deposition of two different metals in low-pressure oxygen we synthesized mixed metal oxide catalytic films with spatially controlled compositions for physical characterization and surface chemical studies. Importantly, mixed metal oxides have desirable catalytic properties; they have been shown to enhance activity and selectivity, as well as reduce sintering. These materials are expected to have substantial surface areas with high concentrations of surface defects which can enhance adsorption and catalytic activity. We deposited the two metallic components in the oxide films in various time dependent ways to create both spatially homogeneous materials as well spatially heterogeneous materials. We were able to both tune the porous nature and structure of the material as well as the catalytic properties. Our basic research strategy involved: (i) physical characterization as a function of deposition conditions, (ii) study of the adsorption/absorption properties and surface defect concentrations, and (iii) investigation of the surface chemical and catalytic properties of the films, and finally (iv) we also investigated some of these materials as electrodes for the photo-oxidation of water and as anode materials for lithium ion batteries.

Enter List of papers submitted or published that acknowledge ARO support from the start of the project to the date of this printing. List the papers, including journal references, in the following categories:

(a) Papers published in peer-reviewed journals (N/A for none)

<u>Received</u>	<u>Paper</u>	
08/01/2011	12.00	David W. Flaherty, Nathan T. Hahn, Allen J. Bard, C. Buddie Mullins, Sean P. Berglund. Photoelectrochemical Oxidation of Water using Nanostructured BiVO ₄ Films, Journal of Physical Chemistry C, (02 2011): 3794. doi:
08/04/2011	11.00	Sean P. Berglund, C. Buddie Mullins, David W. Flaherty. Selective decomposition of formic acid on molybdenum carbide: A new reaction pathway, Journal of Catalysis, (01 2010): 33. doi:
08/04/2011	8.00	David W. Flaherty, R. Alan May, Sean P. Berglund, Keith J. Stevenson, C. Buddie Mullins. Low Temperature Synthesis and Characterization of Nanocrystalline Titanium Carbide with Tunable Porous Architectures, Chemistry of Materials, (01 2010): 0. doi: 10.1021/cm902184m
09/13/2010	5.00	David W. Flaherty, R. Alan May, Sean P. Berglund, Keith J. Stevenson, and C. Buddie Mullins. Reprint, Chemistry of Materials, (11 2009): . doi:
09/13/2010	6.00	R. Alan May, David W. Flaherty, C. Buddie Mullins, and Keith J. Stevenson. Reprint of J Phys Chem Lett paper, Journal of Physical Chemistry Letters, (03 2010): . doi:
09/13/2010	7.00	Nathan T. Hahn, Heechang Ye, David W. Flaherty, Allen J. Bard, and C. Buddie Mullins. Reprint of ACS Nano paper, ACS Nano, (09 2010): . doi:
12/11/2012	13.00	R. Alan May, David W. Flaherty, C. Buddie Mullins, Keith J. Stevenson. Hybrid Generalized Ellipsometry and Quartz Crystal Microbalance Nanogravimetry for the Determination of Adsorption Isotherms on Biaxial Metal Oxide Films, The Journal of Physical Chemistry Letters, (04 2010): 1264. doi: 10.1021/jz1002428
12/11/2012	19.00	Yong-Mao Lin, Rajaram K. Nagarale, Kyle C. Klavetter, Adam Heller, C. Buddie Mullins. SnO ₂ and TiO ₂ -supported-SnO ₂ lithium battery anodes with improved electrochemical performance, Journal of Materials Chemistry, (04 2012): 11134. doi: 10.1039/c2jm16328d
12/11/2012	18.00	William D. Chemelewski, Nathan T. Hahn, C. Buddie Mullins. Effect of Si Doping and Porosity on Hematite's (alpha-Fe ₂ O ₃) Photoelectrochemical Water Oxidation Performance, The Journal of Physical Chemistry C, (03 2012): 5255. doi: 10.1021/jp210877u
12/11/2012	17.00	David W. Flaherty, Nathan T. Hahn, R. Alan May, Sean P. Berglund, Yong-Mao Lin, Keith J. Stevenson, Zdenek Dohnalek, Bruce D. Kay, C. Buddie Mullins. Reactive Ballistic Deposition of Nanostructured Model Materials for Electrochemical Energy Conversion and Storage, Accounts of Chemical Research, (03 2012): 434. doi: 10.1021/ar200164u
12/11/2012	16.00	Yong-Mao Lin, Paul R. Abel, Adam Heller, C. Buddie Mullins. alpha-Fe ₂ O ₃ Nanorods as Anode Material for Lithium Ion Batteries, The Journal of Physical Chemistry Letters, (11 2011): 2885. doi: 10.1021/jz201363j
12/11/2012	15.00	Sean P. Berglund, David W. Flaherty, Nathan T. Hahn, Allen J. Bard, C. Buddie Mullins. Photoelectrochemical Oxidation of Water Using Nanostructured BiVO ₄ , The Journal of Physical Chemistry C, (03 2011): 3794. doi: 10.1021/jp1109459
12/11/2012	14.00	Heechang Ye, David W. Flaherty, Nathan T. Hahn, Allen J. Bard, C. Buddie Mullins. Reactive Ballistic Deposition of alpha-Fe ₂ O ₃ Thin Films for Photoelectrochemical Water Oxidation, ACS Nano, (04 2010): 1977. doi: 10.1021/nn100032y
12/28/2009	3.00	David W. Flaherty, Sean Berglund, and C. Buddie Mullins. New Reprint - 140. David W. Flaherty, Sean Berglund, and C. Buddie Mullins, "Selective decomposition of formic acid on molybdenum carbide: A new reaction pathway," J. Catal. 269, 33-43 (2010). , Journal of Catalysis, (12 2009): . doi:

TOTAL: 14

Number of Papers published in peer-reviewed journals:

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Received Paper

TOTAL:

Number of Papers published in non peer-reviewed journals:

(c) Presentations

Number of Presentations: 0.00

Non Peer-Reviewed Conference Proceeding publications (other than abstracts):

Received Paper

TOTAL:

Number of Non Peer-Reviewed Conference Proceeding publications (other than abstracts):

Peer-Reviewed Conference Proceeding publications (other than abstracts):

Received Paper

TOTAL:

(d) Manuscripts

<u>Received</u>	<u>Paper</u>
08/31/2009	1.00 D.W. Flaherty, A. May, K. J. Stevenson, C. B. Mullins. Manuscript submitted to journal "Chemistry of Materials.", Chemistry of Materials ()
08/31/2009	2.00 C. B. Mullins. Selective Decomposition of Formic Acid on Molybdenum Carbide: A New Reaction Pathway, Journal of Catalysis ()
12/28/2009	4.00 R. Alan May, David W. Flaherty, C. Buddie Mullins, Keith J. Stevenson. Manuscript - Generalized ellipsometry / quartz crystal microbalance nanogravimetric porosimetry of anisotropic TiO2, Applied Physics Letters (12 2009)
TOTAL:	3

Number of Manuscripts:

Books

<u>Received</u>	<u>Paper</u>
TOTAL:	

Patents Submitted

Patents Awarded

Awards

Graduate Students

<u>NAME</u>	<u>PERCENT SUPPORTED</u>	Discipline
Wen-Yueh Yu	1.00	
FTE Equivalent:	1.00	
Total Number:	1	

Names of Post Doctorates

<u>NAME</u>	<u>PERCENT SUPPORTED</u>
FTE Equivalent:	
Total Number:	

Names of Faculty Supported

<u>NAME</u>	<u>PERCENT SUPPORTED</u>	National Academy Member
C. Buddie Mullins	0.05	
FTE Equivalent:	0.05	
Total Number:	1	

Names of Under Graduate students supported

<u>NAME</u>	<u>PERCENT SUPPORTED</u>
FTE Equivalent:	
Total Number:	

Student Metrics

This section only applies to graduating undergraduates supported by this agreement in this reporting period

- The number of undergraduates funded by this agreement who graduated during this period: 0.00
- The number of undergraduates funded by this agreement who graduated during this period with a degree in science, mathematics, engineering, or technology fields:..... 0.00
- The number of undergraduates funded by your agreement who graduated during this period and will continue to pursue a graduate or Ph.D. degree in science, mathematics, engineering, or technology fields:..... 0.00
- Number of graduating undergraduates who achieved a 3.5 GPA to 4.0 (4.0 max scale):..... 0.00
- Number of graduating undergraduates funded by a DoD funded Center of Excellence grant for Education, Research and Engineering:..... 0.00
- The number of undergraduates funded by your agreement who graduated during this period and intend to work for the Department of Defense 0.00
- The number of undergraduates funded by your agreement who graduated during this period and will receive scholarships or fellowships for further studies in science, mathematics, engineering or technology fields: 0.00

Names of Personnel receiving masters degrees

<u>NAME</u>
Total Number:

Names of personnel receiving PHDs

<u>NAME</u>
Total Number:

Names of other research staff

<u>NAME</u>	<u>PERCENT_SUPPORTED</u>
FTE Equivalent:	
Total Number:	

Sub Contractors (DD882)

Inventions (DD882)

Scientific Progress

Statement of Problem: We synthesized and studied nano-structured porous mixed metal oxide thin films with high surface area and catalytic activity. By temporally controlling the deposition of two different metals in low-pressure oxygen we synthesized mixed metal oxide catalytic films with spatially controlled compositions for physical characterization and surface chemical studies. Importantly, mixed metal oxides have desirable catalytic properties; they have been shown to enhance activity and selectivity, as well as reduce sintering. These materials are expected to have substantial surface areas with high concentrations of surface defects which can enhance adsorption and catalytic activity. We deposited the two metallic components in the oxide films in various time dependent ways to create both spatially homogeneous materials as well spatially heterogeneous materials. We were able to both tune the porous nature and structure of the material as well as the catalytic properties. Our basic research strategy includes: (i) physical characterization as a function of deposition conditions, (ii) study of the adsorption/absorption properties and surface defect concentrations, and (iii) investigation of the surface chemical and catalytic properties of the films, and finally (iv) we also investigated some of these materials as electrodes for the photo-oxidation of water and as anode materials for lithium ion batteries.

Summary of the Most Important Results:

In one study nanostructured BiVO₄ films were synthesized by coevaporation of bismuth and vanadium in an oxygen ambient, a process referred to as reactive ballistic deposition (RBD). The films were tested in various electrolyte solutions to assess their activity for photoelectrochemical water oxidation. Deposition parameters, including the V/Bi atomic flux ratio and the incident angle of deposition, were adjusted. Films deposited with excess vanadium (V/Bi = 2) and incident angles of deposition at 65° showed the highest initial photocurrents with IPCE values above 21% for light wavelengths of 340-460 nm (in 0.5 M Na₂SO₄ at 1.0 V vs Ag/AgCl). With continued illumination the excess vanadium in these films dissolved into the electrolyte and the photocurrents dropped by 60-75% before reaching steady state. The steady-state photocurrent and IPCE values (above 14% for 340-460 nm light) were higher than the initial values for films synthesized with stoichiometric amounts of vanadium and bismuth (V/Bi = 1) and incident angles of deposition at 65°. Stoichiometric BiVO₄ films remained stable under illumination but their photocurrents were limited by surface reaction kinetics. The addition of cobalt as an electrocatalyst to the surface of these films increased their photocurrent by a factor of 3.

In another study we reported the preparation of α-Fe₂O₃ electrodes using a technique known as reactive ballistic deposition in which iron metal is evaporatively deposited in an oxygen ambient for photoelectrochemical (PEC) water oxidation. By manipulating synthesis parameters such as deposition angle, film thickness, and annealing temperature, we find that it is possible to optimize the structural and morphological properties of such films in order to improve their PEC efficiency. Incident photon to current conversion efficiencies (IPCE) are used to calculate an AM1.5 photocurrent of 0.55 mA/cm² for optimized films with an IPCE reaching 10% at 420 nm in 1 M KOH at 0.5 V versus Ag/AgCl. We also note that the commonly observed low photoactivity of extremely thin hematite films on fluorine-doped tin oxide substrates may be improved by modification of annealing conditions in some cases.

We also studied selective decomposition of formic acid since it is important as a prototype to study selective bond cleavage of oxygenates. We demonstrated that carbon-modified Mo(1 1 0), C-Mo(1 1 0), is up to 15 times more selective for the dehydrogenation of formic acid than Mo(1 1 0). Reflection absorption infrared spectroscopy (RAIRS) indicates that carbidic carbon blocks active sites for C-O bond cleavage, decreasing the rate of dehydration. Steady-state reactive molecular beam scattering (RMBS) shows that dehydration is the dominant reaction pathway on clean Mo(1 1 0), while C-Mo(1 1 0) selectively promotes dehydrogenation. Kinetic analysis of RMBS data reveals that formic acid dehydrogenation on Mo(1 1 0) has an activation energy of 34.4 ± 3.3 kJ mol⁻¹ while the C-Mo(1 1 0) surface promotes distinct pathways for dehydrogenation with an activation energy of only 12.8 ± 1.0 kJ mol⁻¹. RAIRS spectra suggest the new pathways include the formation of monodentate formate, and at temperatures of 500 K and greater,

direct activation of the C–H bond to form carboxyl, both of which decompose via a COd
2 intermediate
to evolve CO₂ and H₂.

High surface area, porous titanium carbide films were also synthesized at room temperature via reactive ballistic deposition (RBD). X-ray diffraction and X-ray photoelectron spectroscopy show that evaporative deposition of titanium in an ethylene ambient environment allows for low temperature (35 °C) synthesis of nanocrystalline titanium carbide, a material which typically requires high processing temperatures to produce. Angle-dependent RBD allows for the controlled tuning of TiC nanostructure and porosity where changing the deposition angle from near normal incidence (13°) to more glancing angles (50–85°) changes the film morphology from relatively nonporous, dense TiC to a continuous, reticulated TiC and finally to discrete, nanocolumnar TiC. The influence of the deposition angle on TiC optical constants, porosity, specific surface area, and the pore size distribution has been investigated using hybrid quartz crystal microbalance and ellipsometric porosimetry. Notably, TiC films deposited at 35 °C at an angle of 70° have a specific surface area of 710 m² g⁻¹ and a mean Kelvin radius of 1.8 nm, making them attractive materials for application in catalysis, energy conversion, and storage.

We combined generalized ellipsometry and quartz crystal nanogravimetry to determine adsorption isotherms and changes in the optical properties of biaxial TiO₂ thin films by monitoring changes in the Mueller matrix. Individual Mueller matrix elements, corresponding to a variety of polarization states, exhibit dramatically different sensitivities to the adsorption of toluene. While some elements are sensitive to structural anisotropy and orientation, others report uniquely on the refractive index. The fast (na) optical axis reflects the greatest change in refractive index due to the adsorption, leading to a decrease from $\Delta n_{800\text{nm}} = 0.4$ to 0.1. This change is discussed in terms of the Bragg-Pippard (B-P) effective medium approximation, which is shown to accurately describe changes in optical behavior in response to adsorption. The integration of generalized ellipsometry with quartz crystal nanogravimetry establishes a highly sensitive technique for acquiring adsorption isotherms and for chemical optical sensing of structurally anisotropic thin films.

We also hydrothermally synthesized single-crystalline hematite (α -Fe₂O₃) nanorods and investigated them as an anode material for Li-ion batteries. Electrodes prepared with this material exhibited initial reversible capacities of 908 mAh g⁻¹ at 0.2 C rate and 837 mAh g⁻¹ at 0.5 C rate, and these capacities were completely retained after numerous cycles. The α -Fe₂O₃ nanorods average 40 nm in diameter and 400 nm in length providing a short path for lithium-ion diffusion and effective accommodation of the strain generated from volume expansion during the lithiation/delithiation process.

We also studied the photoelectrochemical water oxidation performance under simulated solar irradiation of hematite (α -Fe₂O₃) films synthesized by coevaporation of pure Si and Fe in an oxygen ambient, a process known as reactive ballistic deposition, is studied as a function of Si doping level and film porosity, ranging from dense films to nanocolumnar films. It is found that Si segregates to the hematite surface, does not improve the bulk conductivity, and lowers the optical absorption coefficient. Nevertheless, the photoelectrochemical performance of Si-doped, porous films is significantly improved relative to undoped, porous films. However, the improvement relative to dense, undoped films is marginal. It is concluded that Si acts to passivate the hematite surface and aids charge transfer to the solution. Additionally, from incident photon conversion efficiency measurements it is found that Si doping and porosity have little effect on the normalized spectral response of 100 nm thick hematite films.

Finally, Li-ion battery anodes made of SnO₂ nanoparticles and a TiO₂-supported SnO₂ nanocomposite formed of equimolar amounts of the Sn and Ti oxides were investigated, respectively. By limiting the voltage window of the charge/discharge cycles to the range 50 mV–1.0 V, both the SnO₂-based anode and the SnO₂/TiO₂-based anode show improved cycling stability. Compared to the SnO₂ nanoparticle based anodes, the TiO₂-support-SnO₂ nanocomposite anodes exhibit better cyclability and higher Coulombic

efficiency. During the first lithiation process, Li^+ conducting Li_xTiO_2 is formed in the $\text{SnO}_2/\text{TiO}_2$ composite, which structurally/mechanically supports the electrode. The anode made of amorphous TiO_2 -cassiterite SnO_2 retained a reversible capacity of $\sim 500 \text{ mAh g}^{-1}$ (based on the weight of SnO_2) or $\sim 320 \text{ mAh g}^{-1}$ (based on the weight of $\text{SnO}_2/\text{TiO}_2$) at 0.2 C after 100 cycles and at a rate as fast as 5 C retained a stable reversible capacity of $\sim 340 \text{ mAh g}^{-1}$ (based on the weight of SnO_2) or $\sim 220 \text{ mAh g}^{-1}$ (based on the weight of $\text{SnO}_2/\text{TiO}_2$).

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5. Sean P. Berglund, David W. Flaherty, Nathan T. Hahn, Allen J. Bard, and C. Buddie Mullins, "Photoelectrochemical Oxidation of Water using Nanostructured BiVO_4 Films," *J. Phys. Chem. C* 115, 3794-3802 (2011). <http://dx.doi.org/10.1021/jp1109459>
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7. David W. Flaherty, Nathan T. Hahn, Sean M. Berglund, Yong-Mao Lin, R. Alan May, Keith J. Stevenson, Zdenek Dohnalek, Bruce D. Kay, and C. Buddie Mullins, "Reactive ballistic deposition of nanostructured model materials for electrochemical energy conversion and storage," *Acc. Chem. Res.* 45, 434-443 (2012). <http://dx.doi.org/10.1021/ar200164u>
8. William D. Chemelewski, Nathan T. Hahn, and C. Buddie Mullins, "The effect of Si doping and porosity on Hematite's ($\alpha\text{-Fe}_2\text{O}_3$) photoelectrochemical water oxidation performance," *J. Phys. Chem. C* 116, 5255-5261 (2012). <http://dx.doi.org/10.1021/jp210877u>
9. Yong-Mao Lin, Rajaram K. Nagarale, Kyle C. Klavetter, Adam Heller, and C. Buddie Mullins, "A fast and stable TiO_2 -supported SnO_2 nanocomposite lithium ion battery anode," *J. Mater. Chem.* 22, 11134-11139 (2012). <http://dx.doi.org/10.1039/c2jm16328d>

Technology Transfer